

REMARKS

A. Introduction

Claim 36 was pending and under consideration in the application, claims 28-35 having been previously withdrawn, and claims 21-27 having been previously canceled.

In the Final Office Action dated April 19 2010, claim 36 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claim 36 was rejected under U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Crevelt et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,902,983 (hereinafter, "*Crevelt*") in view of Johnson, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0031663 (hereinafter, "*Johnson*"), in view of Walker et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,012,983 (hereinafter, "*Walker*") and further in view of Nhaissi et al., U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0203835 (hereinafter, "*Nhaissi*").

In response Applicants seek to amend the claims for clarity. Support for the amendment may be found in Figure 2 of the Application and in claim 7 of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/652,155, as issued as U.S. Patent No. 7,526,447, which is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/921,716, of which the instant application is also a continuation. No new matter is being added.

Applicants submit that the Examiner should enter the offered amendment, because the amendment places the case in condition for allowance. 37 CFR §1.116; MPEP 7142.12, 714.13. No new matter is being added.

B. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §101

Claim 36 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Applicants seek to amend claim 36 to more expressly tie the claimed method to particular apparatus, specifically a gaming system comprising a plurality of gaming terminals and a financial server.

Since the grounds for the rejection have been obviated by the present amendment, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

C. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 36 was rejected as being unpatentable over *Crevelt* in view of *Johnson* in view of *Walker* and further in view of *Nhaissi*.

As acknowledged by the Office Action, *Crevelt* fails to disclose: (i) preventing said player from utilizing monetary amounts associated with said account to play said one or more games for at least a period of time if said determined player loss meets certain criteria or if the amount won; and (ii) storing a threshold win amount limit, above which subsequent play should be limited. Neither does *Crevelt* teach or suggest generating within a gaming system, a personal account corresponding to a player, where the gaming system includes a plurality of gaming terminals on which a player may play one or more games, and a financial server in communication with each of said plurality of gaming terminals via a communication network, where the personal account accessible by a corresponding player on at least one of the plurality of gaming terminals to combine player personal accounts, open a new player personal account, or close out an existing player personal account.

The Office Action asserted that (i) *Johnson* discloses preventing a player from utilizing monetary amounts associated with an account to play one or more games for at least a period of time if the player meets certain criteria, and (ii) *Walker* discloses allowing players to set a limit on winnings such that automated play is stopped if the winnings threshold is exceeded. Whether or not the foregoing assertions are true, such disclosures fail to cure the deficiencies noted above. Because the above noted features are not taught or suggested by the cited prior art, the Office Action fails to establish that the invention as a whole would have been obvious in light thereof. See MPEP 2143.03. "All words in a claim must be considered in judging the patentability of that claim against the prior art." As a result, claim 36 is patentable over the combination of *Crevelt*, *Johnson*, *Walker*, and *Nhaissi*.

D. Conclusion

The claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, allowance of the claims at the earliest possible date is requested.

If prosecution of this application can be assisted by telephone, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (510) 663-1100.

Applicants do not believe that any additional fees are required to facilitate the filing of this Amendment. However, if it is determined that such fees are due, please charge such additional fees to Deposit Account No. 504480 (Order No. IGT1P130X2).

Respectfully submitted,
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